

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00211 211429Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 AID-05 INT-05 EB-08 COME-00 FDRE-00
/124 W

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P R 211400Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0272
INFO/RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0070
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0211

GENEVA PASS UNDRO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:EAID, GR
SUBJECT: SITREP 17

REF: THESSALONIKI 0207

1. "THESSALONIKI LIVES" PROCLAIMS THE BANNER
HEADLINES OF THE CITY'S LARGEST MORNING PAPER AFTER
A QUIET, SEISMIC-WISE, NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON. OTHER-
WISE, THE CITY WAS ANYTHING BUT QUIET WITH MORE
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PEDESTRIAN AND AUTO TRAFFIC THAN ANY NIGHT SINCE
THE MAJOR QUAKE OF JUNE 20. THE PRESS ESTIMATES
ABOUT 80,000 PEOPLE SHOWED UP AT ARISTOTELOUS
SQUARE, DRAWN BY THE FREE PARTY REPORTED REFTTEL
AND AN EVENING OF FOLK DANCING AND SINGING.

2. THE SUCCESSFUL PASSING OF THE FULL MOON, THE

WELL-PUBLICIZED PRESENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER,
AND A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RECORDED TREMORS
HAS CREATED A MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC MOOD AND
PEOPLE ARE NOW CONSIDERING MOVING BACK INTO THEIR HOMES AND
STARTING TO THINK ABOUT REBUILDING.

THIS OPTIMISM, HOWEVER IS STILL
FRAGILE AND IT COULD BE
SHATTERED BY A COUPLE OF STRONG TREMORS.
THIS MEANS THAT FULL-SCALE REPAIR AND RE-BUILDING WILL CONTINUE
TO BE DEFERRED.

3. THE TEAM OF AMERICAN SEISMOLOGISTS WILL BE
DEPARTING ON MONDAY. AT THE REQUEST OF THE
MINISTER OF NORTHERN GREECE, THEY WILL BE LEAVING
THREE OF THEIR SEISMOGRAPHS FOR USE IN CONTINUING
TO RECORD THE TREMORS (NOTE: THE POST VERY MUCH
APPRECIATES WASHINGTON'S RAPID APPROVAL OF THIS
REQUEST.) A GROUP OF SEISMOLOGISTS FROM CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY IS NOW HERE, AND THEY PLAN TO
REMAIN FOR SOME TIME RECORDING EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY.

4. REFLECTING THE GENERAL MOOD, WE PLAN TO MAKE
THIS THE LAST OF OUR EARTHQUAKE SITREPS AND HOPE
IT WILL REMAIN SO.

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